

FIRST HOTEL TO OPEN AT MALL OF AMERICA CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON RADISSON BLU

The Radisson Blu hotel at the Mall of America will be the first and only hotel to be physically connected to the Mall.

The City is working with Carlson Hotels, a Minnetonka-based company, and Minneapolis-based Mortenson Construction on the \$135 million project. It is estimated that the project will create 250 full-time construction jobs and 240 permanent hotel jobs in Bloomington.

The project is funded through \$40 million in Bloomington Port Authority-issued tax-free bonds, \$40 million in private, taxable bonds and \$40 million in private equity from Carlson and Mortenson. Revenue from the hotel will be used to repay the money. The City and taxpayers are not liable for the bonds.

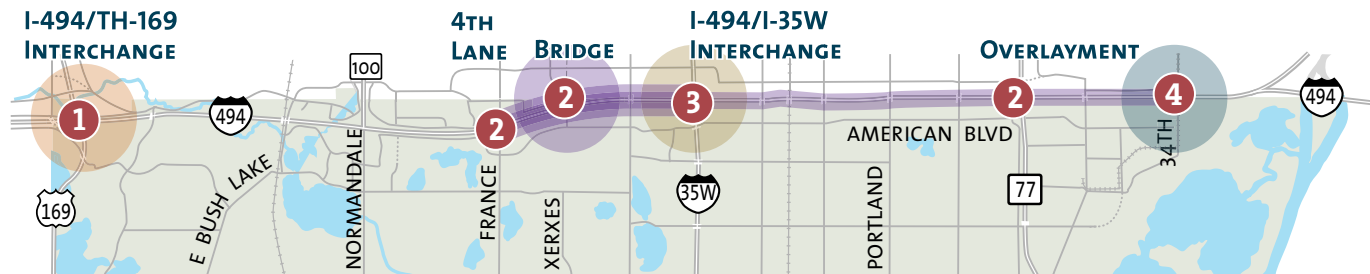
A three-level public parking garage will be financed with \$15 million in tax increment financing paid with the Mall's property taxes. The parking structure will be an extension of the existing parking lot. Construction of the hotel is expected to be completed by late 2012.



The 500-room, 13-story hotel will be located on the Mall's south side between Macy's and Bloomingdales.

THE FUTURE OF I-494

PAVING THE WAY FOR A BETTER COMMUTE



The I-494 corridor has served as the gateway to the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, the Mall of America and countless businesses for decades. Nearly 20 percent of the population and 21 percent of jobs in the metropolitan area are located on the corridor. The I-494/I-694 system also provides access to the rest of the metro area through its connections to other major highways.

Pavement on the corridor has reached the end of its lifespan and needs upgrading. Several bridges need deck or total structure replacement. Growing travel demand along I-494 is anticipated to further increase traffic congestion and pavement stress. For these reasons and others, the City of Bloomington

is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), and other agencies and partners to improve and reconfigure the most heavily used portions of I-494.

Because the City cannot rely on future funding to rebuild the I-494 corridor, many "mega projects" have been tabled in favor of lower-cost and higher-benefit plans that can be completed in phases.

1 I-494/TH-169 interchange

The MnDOT-approved plan will relieve congestion at the TH-169 and I-494 interchange. A project team lead by C.S. McCrossan and Edward Kraemer and Sons will reconfigure the crossing. Traffic signals on TH-169 will be removed and the interchange will be rebuilt using six freeway-to-freeway ramps.

2 I-494 project consolidation

Plans are being considered for combining the Xerxes bridge reconstruction with a pavement overlay of I-494 from France to 34th Avenues. The Xerxes bridge will be completely rebuilt to accommodate future improvements to I-494. In addition, possible construction of a fourth lane westbound from I-35W to France Avenue could partially accommodate the heavy traffic at the intersection of I-494 and I-35W.

3 I-494/I-35W interchange

The I-494/I-35W interchange is one of the most heavily traveled in the entire region – handling 500,000 vehicles daily.

To ease congestion and increase safety, the City is working with MnDOT on the construction of an innovative turbine interchange – a series of circular ramps that can be constructed in phases.

The turbine design is projected to be completed for \$240 million – approximately \$30 million less than estimates for a different design. The plan may also include a bus rapid transit station in the I-35W corridor that will increase transit options.

Millions of people rely on the transportation systems in the metropolitan area for safe and convenient travel. The City will continue to work with MnDOT and other agencies to mitigate traffic congestion along I-494 and develop the best design possible given present funding restraints.

4 34th Avenue interchange

One of the key interchanges for future development is the 34th Avenue/I-494 interchange. A project to be done in phases, improvements for Phase I include constructing a Diverging Diamond Interchange that would eliminate crossing traffic to access I-494 and minimize left turn signals. Phase I construction could begin as early as 2014; other phases will be driven by traffic needs.

For more information, contact Deputy Director of Public Works Jim Gates at 952-563-8730 or jgates@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

INSIDE

APRIL 2011

- PAGE 2 Quality services.
- PAGE 3 News you can use.
- PAGE 4 Earth Action Heroes.
- PAGE 5 Around the City.
- PAGE 6 Parks and Recreation.
- PAGE 7 Center for the Arts.
- PAGE 8 In your community.

When you see **WEBSITE KEYWORDS**, go to www.ci.bloomington.mn.us for more information.



BE WARY OF SOLICITORS WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU OPEN YOUR DOOR

Bloomington City Code requires all solicitors to carry a City-issued license and identification card when soliciting door to door. Solicitors must not operate between 8 p.m. and 9 a.m., enter a property with a posted "No Solicitation" or similar sign, or use aggressive sales tactics. Nonprofit, religious and political organizations are exempt from licensing, but must abide by hours and have proper identification.

For more information, call Licensing at 952-563-8728.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: SOLICITORS.



SAVE THE DATE 2011 CITY ELECTION ACTIVITIES

The offices of Mayor, Councilmember-at-Large, Councilmember District III and Councilmember District IV will be up for election this year. (An appointment will be made to fill the open District III seat for the remainder of 2011.) The Primary Election, if it is required, will be held **Tuesday, August 9**. The General Election is **Tuesday, November 8**.

The candidate filing period is May 17 - 31. Candidate filing packets are available at the City Clerk's Office. For more information, call 952-563-8729.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: VOTING.

BLOOMINGTON CONNECTED
A SOCIAL COMMUNITY LONG BEFORE NEW MEDIA

By Mayor Gene Winstead

It is the perennial human quest to connect with others that led to Bloomington being home to human settlements for centuries – an attractive setting for people to do more collectively than what they could do by themselves. Before there was ever talk of cloud computing, Bloomington was home to Cloud Man, chief of the Dakota.

Technological advances have led this human quest for connection in new directions. Face-to-face conversations of yesteryear are now conducted on Facebook. Discussions over the backyard fence are now tweeted and the old party line telephone conversations are transferred to video played on YouTube.

Among you who are our longest-term residents, Bloomington was the new suburban frontier. Once a very rural community – farms transformed into single-family subdivisions. Near the airport – the latest in air travel took off. Just beyond the end of the streetcar line – Highway 5 provided major east-west travel and the more critical Highway 65 led the north-south movement into Minneapolis, the hub of the metropolitan area’s economic activity at the time.

With more of you settling and being raised in the community, the paralleling of Highway 65 (Lyndale Avenue) by I-35W and the upgrade of Highway 5 to I-494, as well as the explosion of jet travel, Bloomington became home to an increasing number of jobs with more and more residents able to be employed close to home. By the turn of the current century, there were more jobs in Bloomington than there were residents.

Bloomington became an “edge city” noted for its high-quality offices. Successful communities never let themselves stagnate. Our strategic vision as a Council with broad input from the community is “**To build and renew the community by providing services, promoting renewal and guiding growth in an even more sustainable, fiscally sound manner.**” Among our strategic objectives is to actively enhance our City’s sense of community.

A key to Bloomington’s growth has been its location next to the major ground and air transportation facilities of the metropolitan area – the arteries of our community that bring many of us together. We look to expand those opportunities not only by moving people from place to place, but also by promoting healthier lives through use of the system in more physically active ways. Our vision for higher density, mixed-use, transit-oriented development provides a wider range of living choices in the community, as well as vibrant settings where people can easily connect with each other face to face.

As a City organization, we connect with people through the services we provide. As noted in the February *Briefing*, you get the value of not only what you receive immediately from services, such as emergency fire and police response or snowplowing and street maintenance, but also what those services provide for the longer term in support of you and your investment in the community.

City services are a collection of tangentially related amenities that come together in a seamless fashion during major events that threaten our normal way of life. Recent incidents, including the apartment fire on Nicollet Avenue and the President’s Day blizzard – the most difficult snowstorm since the 1991 Halloween blizzard – had numerous departments such as Fire, Police, Public Works, Community Services and



Community Development, working together to deal with the situations and their aftermath.

To help us further achieve the City’s strategic vision in a multi-channelled, communications-oriented world and to better connect with those who live, work and play in Bloomington, we continue to explore the many ways people want to communicate with us. While watching others test the new social media in the past few years, we have learned from their experiences and, in February, rolled out the City’s social media connections.

These new links go beyond the traditional communications of the telephone, cable TV and even the website with its [webcasts](#), [Ask the City](#) and [E-Subscribe](#) online services. The additions of [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#) create new avenues for two-way communication, increase transparency and allow the City to connect with people in Bloomington using their preferred manner of communication, *see page 3*. Although communication is only one of the many ways we connect with the community, the ever increasing opportunities for connection have led to the theme, “Bloomington Connected,” for this year’s State of the City address and for our major communication efforts.

As we look to making Bloomington an even more sustainable community and strengthen our connections as a community, we hope you become a greater “fan” and “friend” of the community we all share.

Volume 19, Number 2

The *Briefing*, published bimonthly by the City of Bloomington, is mailed to our residents and businesses. Direct comments and requests for Braille, larger print or computer disk to Communications Administrator Janine Hill, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027; PH 952-563-8819; TTY 952-563-8740; FAX 952-563-8715; [E-MAIL jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us). [Website: www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us)

BLOOMINGTON CITY COUNCIL



Mayor
Gene Winstead
952-888-1258 (h)
952-563-8782 (w)
gwinstead@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember At Large
Amy Grady
952-884-6502 (h)
agrady@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember At Large
Karen Nordstrom
952-831-5221 (h)
knordstrom@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District I
Steve Peterson
952-884-3262 (h)
speterson@ci.bloomington.mn.us



Councilmember District II
Tom Hulting
952-942-9164 (h)
thulting@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Councilmember District III
[Council seat open.](#)
[For more information, visit the City’s website.](#)



Councilmember District IV
Vern Wilcox
952-854-1425 (h)
vwilcox@ci.bloomington.mn.us

Elected officials presented for informational purposes.

COUNCILMEMBERS
council@ci.bloomington.mn.us

CITY MANAGER
Mark Bernhardson 952-563-8780
citymanager@ci.bloomington.mn.us

DIRECTORS
Larry Lee, *Community Development* 952-563-8947
llee@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Diann Kirby, *Community Services* 952-563-8717
communityservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Lori Economy-Scholler, *Finance* 952-563-8791
finance@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Ulie Seal, *Fire* 952-881-4062
fire@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Kent Michaelson, *Human Resources* 952-563-4898
kmichaelson@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Sandra Johnson, *Legal* 952-563-4895
legal@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Jeffrey Potts, *Police* 952-563-8601
police@ci.bloomington.mn.us
Karl Keel, *Public Works* 952-563-8731
publicworks@ci.bloomington.mn.us
General phone number 952-563-8700

The City of Bloomington complies with all applicable provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Bloomington services, programs, and activities. The City has designated coordinators to facilitate compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and to coordinate compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations. For more information, contact the Human Services Division, City of Bloomington, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington, MN 55431-3027; 952-563-8733 (Voice); 952-563-8740 (TTY). Upon request, this information can be available in Braille, large print, audio tape and/or electronic format.

BLOOMINGTON YESTERDAY
FARMING ON THE LAKE

In 1924, Art Chesher, a retired Minneapolis print shop owner, and his wife Irene, built their dream retirement home “in the country” near the shores of Bush Lake. The cabin, as it was fondly called, was built on an elevated piece of land overlooking the lake, on what is

now South Bay Circle. See photo below.

According to great-granddaughter and Bloomington Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore, the cabin was a gathering place for friends and family members on holidays and weekends.

Chesher also owned a farm near Hyland Lake. On what is now part of the Hyland Lake Park Reserve, Chesher grew crops, raised cattle and kept sheep, goats, chickens, draft horses and ponies for his three granddaughters, Jean, Dorothy and Marilyn (Moore’s



mother). Although Chesher was especially proud of the Guernsey dairy cattle he raised, one of which won the 1933 prize for Best Pure Breed Sire at the Hennepin County Fair, Marilyn’s favorite animals were a nearly blind draft horse and goat named Billy.

On June 7, 1939, a tornado destroyed the barn at the Hyland Lake farm. Marilyn posed for a photo in front of the demolished barn, above.





CITY LAUNCHES SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES
CONNECT ON FACEBOOK, TWITTER AND YOUTUBE

To address the fast-changing landscape of the Internet and the way residents communicate and obtain information online, the City has launched several new social media pages to enhance its communication with the community. Residents can now follow the City on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

The new social media pages, combined with the City’s existing communication tools, allow for greater and faster access to City news and information. The sites will provide users with frequent updates and keep the community informed about topics ranging from road closures to special events.

To get the latest news and information from the City, visit the City’s website and click on the social media icons on the home page.

For more information, contact Communications Administrator Janine Hill at 952-563-8819 or jhill@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

HELPING YOUR HOME SHINE
FORECLOSED HOME IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

If you are purchasing or have purchased a foreclosed home within the last 12 months, you may be eligible for up to \$20,000 in loans to make home improvements through the City’s Foreclosed Home Improvement Program (FHIP).

One-half of the money borrowed will not have to be repaid if the owner lives in the home for five years. The remaining half will consist of a 5 percent deferred loan that does not have to be repaid until the owner sells, transfers title or no longer lives in the home.

Eligible improvements include:

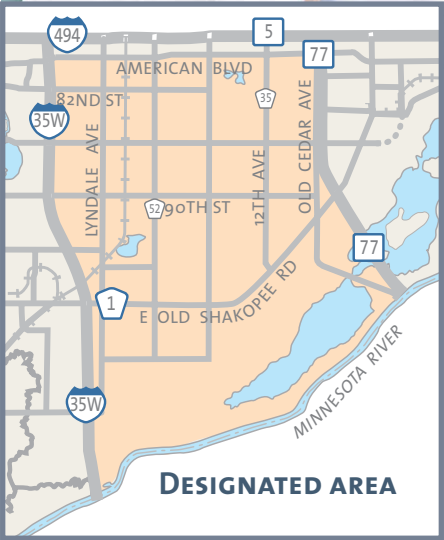
- Repairs for health and safety requirements.
- Code repairs for electrical, heating and plumbing.
- Lead paint stabilization.
- Energy efficiency improvements.
- Exterior improvements such as siding, roofing, gutters and downspouts, windows, driveways, foundation repairs.

To be eligible for FHIP funds, properties must be located within a designated area of Bloomington. The area is bordered by American Boulevard to the north, the Minnesota River to the south, TH-77 on the east and I-35W on the west, *see map above*.

All FHIP applicants must be purchasing or have purchased a foreclosed home within the designated area within the last 12 months.

For more information, contact Brian Duerwachter at 952-563-8939 or e-mail bduerwachter@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: FHIP.



PARKKEEPER
RECOGNIZED
JIM HOFFMAN HONORED

Parkkeeper II Jim Hoffman was recently awarded the 2010 Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association’s Personnel Award, Maintenance Category.

Hoffman has been with the City for 10 years. His main responsibilities include maintaining the City’s soccer fields, softball fields, tennis courts, playground equipment and walking paths at Marsh Lake and Kelly Park. Hoffman is also involved in the ice rink and sidewalk snow removal programs.

The award is given each year to a Minnesota Public Works employee who has demonstrated outstanding service to citizens, the use of innovative applications of new and existing technology, and outstanding efforts in developing teamwork.

In 2007, Bloomington Park Maintenance Supervisor Dave Hanson also received the award.



RAMBLER REDO SERIES
CREATING A KITCHEN FOR THE FAMILY

Nowadays, kitchens have become more than just a place to cook family meals. Kitchens are multi-purpose rooms built to combine form with function, with enough space to simultaneously accommodate homework, food preparation and whole family gatherings. Unfortunately, most rambler kitchens were not built to accommodate so much activity. The good news is the location of the rambler kitchen leaves plenty of room for growth.

The typical rambler kitchen is located at the back of the house and is normally a narrow, galley-style space with just enough room for food preparation. Although not ideal for most growing families, the location

of the rambler kitchen is the perfect place to add square footage. An eight-foot bump-out to the backyard is all it takes to transform a rambler kitchen.

Tan Nguyen of Nguyen Architects offers the following tips for making the most of your kitchen space:

- Create an eight-foot or more bump-out to accommodate a built-in dining area and small mudroom.
- Add new cabinets, flooring, appliances and pendant lights to complete the update.
- Install a wood ceiling to add interest and warmth.



- Include a crawl space open to the existing basement to warm the new flooring.

Before making any additions, it is important to check with the City’s Building and Inspection Division at 952-563-8930 for zoning and setback requirements.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: RAMBLER REDO.

MOTOR VEHICLE IS HERE FOR YOU
LICENSE RENEWALS, VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS, TABS AND MORE

Spring is just around the corner. Are you ready for all the outdoor



activities the season has in store? If the fishing opener is on your mind, Bloomington Motor Vehicle can register your boat for you. Or perhaps you’re dreaming of riding your motorcycle or camping again? Motor Vehicle can take care of those registrations, too.

Whether it’s driver’s license renewals, duplicates to automobile

registrations or renewing your license tabs, Bloomington Motor Vehicle does it all.

And remember, by purchasing your vehicle registration at your local motor vehicle office, a portion of the fee stays in your community.

For more information, call 952-563-8719 or visit our website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: MOTOR VEHICLE.

FEEDING WILDLIFE
CHANGES MADE TO CITY CODE

Changes to the city code now prohibit the feeding of wild animals in Bloomington year-round.

The changes do not affect feeding of birds with birdseed mixtures, as long as the feeders are at least five feet off the ground. These changes were made in an effort to reduce the occurrence of issues with wild animals foraging on feed and creating a public nuisance. For more information, contact Bloomington Animal Control at 952-563-4942.

BOOK ‘EM
FIGHT CRIME
WITH BOOKS



The Bloomington Crime Prevention Association (BCPA) is collecting books for its 19th annual used book sale. The Book ‘em sale takes place **June 4 - 18** at 9801 Lyndale Avenue. Proceeds go to help fund crime prevention programs, the Bloomington Police Explorers and the Bloomington Police Department.

For more information and a list of used book drop-off sites, call 952-220-2537 or visit the BCPA website at www.bcpamn.org.



CURBSIDE CLEANUP

QUESTIONS?
CALL 952-563-8750.

Be sure you're prepared by setting your materials at the curb before 7 a.m. on your pickup day. To prevent people from stealing copper and releasing hazardous chemicals into the air, **please do not set appliances on the curb until the morning of your collection day.** Remember, trucks will go through only once.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: CURBSIDE.

2011 CURBSIDE CLEANUP SCHEDULE

This year's Cleanup will go from west to east.

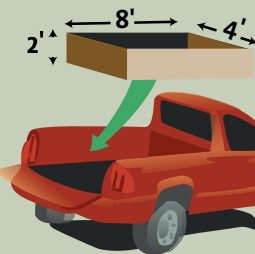
Saturday, April 9	Normandale to western boundary
Saturday, April 16	France to Normandale
Saturday, April 23	Penn to France
Saturday, April 30	Portland to Penn
Saturday, May 7	East boundary to Portland



ACCEPTED AT THE CURB

Please be considerate; haulers cannot spend more than a few minutes at each house in order to complete their routes.

- General junk:** Must be boxed, bagged or bundled tightly and under 100 pounds, per item. All items will be disposed of, including containers and bins.
- Appliances:** Water heaters, microwaves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, stoves, air conditioners, freezers, etc. **Limit TWO** per house. **NO electronics.**
- Carpets/pads:** Rolled and securely tied. Roll must be under five feet long and one foot in diameter – no larger.
- Larger scrap metal ONLY:** Only large scrap metal items that do not fit in the trunk of a car (swing sets, grills, etc.) will be accepted. All non-metal items (plastic, rubber)



must be removed from the item. Remove propane tanks from grills. Take smaller items to the Hennepin County Problem Materials Center. *See box below.*

- Unusable furniture:** Disassemble hideaway sofa beds so they do not open during handling.
- Mattresses/box springs.**
- Construction materials, lumber, windows and doors:** Pile limited to what fits in ONE level

standard-size pickup truck. Lumber stacked and no longer than five feet. Bend nails. NO railroad ties. NO contractor materials.

- BUNDLED brush:** Branches smaller than three inches in diameter and five feet in length. Includes buckthorn.

PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING AND PROTECT AIR QUALITY

Window air conditioners and dehumidifiers set out at the curb are targets for people who take copper tubing from appliances to sell. It is illegal to cut the copper tubing in appliances because it releases toxic pollutants such as Freon into the air. To help prevent illegal dumping and protect air quality, do not set out appliances that contain Freon until 7 a.m. on the day of your pickup. For more information, call Public Works at 952-563-8750.

OPTIONS FOR ITEMS NOT ACCEPTED AT THE CURB HENNEPIN COUNTY PROBLEM WASTE AND RECYCLING FACILITY

1400 West 96th Street, 612-348-3777, www.co.hennepin.mn.us/dropoffs

TU, TH, F	10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W	10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
SA	8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

- Hazardous waste:** Paints, motor oil, antifreeze, solvents, fluorescent tubes and other household chemicals.
- Tires and batteries.**
- Electronics:** TVs, VCRs, computers, monitors, stereos and cordless phones.
- Recyclable materials:** Plastic and glass bottles, cans, cardboard, all paper. (Drop off or use your recycling service.)
- Gas-powered, refrigeration appliances:** Camper/other fridges, air conditioners. Call ahead.
- Small scrap metal** that fits into a car trunk.
- Nonrefillable propane or butane cylinders** and one-pound canisters.



BURNSVILLE LANDFILL
952-890-3248

- Concrete, bricks.
- Porcelain: Tubs, sinks, toilets.
- Shingles.

MULCH STORE
Burnsville, 952-736-1915

- Leaves, grass clippings, sod.

Earth Action Heroes protect the earth. Whether it's saving energy or guarding Bloomington's precious natural resources, these individuals are making a difference. Here are your neighbors in action ...



The City of Bloomington is home to 30 natural prairie areas. Some are small and easy to miss. Others, like the ones at Tarnhill Park and Bush Lake, are vast expanses of native plants and grasses.

Big bluestem and Indian grass are abundant in Bloomington's prairies, as are a variety of wildflowers such as giant hyssops, wild bergamot, asters, yellow coneflowers and black-eyed susans. Some plants are tiny, while others may grow six feet high.

Restoring prairie areas and landscaping with native plants has gained in popularity in recent years, but it is something the City's Park Maintenance Division has done for two decades.

Park Maintenance Supervisor Dave Hanson oversees the maintenance of Bloomington's prairies.

According to Hanson, City prairies are maintained through a controlled burning process every two to four years. The burning reduces weeds, such as buckthorn, and gives wildflower seedlings more room to regenerate. Weather conditions have to be just right before a burn by experienced professionals can take place. Prairies are also mowed if burning is not possible.



EARTH ACTION HEROES PRAIRIE PROTECTORS

With their wealth of native plants and grasses, prairies are valued for their hardiness, adaptability and natural beauty. Birds and butterflies are drawn to them. Yet prairies hold many other benefits beyond their beauty.

Prairies provide food and habitat for a wide variety of insects and wildlife. They're also easier to maintain than conventional turf areas. Prairies don't require as much labor, weed control, equipment fuel or fertilizer, which translates to less money and energy used. This also means that prairies are naturally better for the environment.

"By maintaining these prairie areas we reduce, or in some cases completely eliminate, the need for fertilizers and weed control chemicals," Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson said.

Edwardson sees another benefit in maintaining these natural areas.

"Seeing these natural areas appear again takes us back to earlier times when this country was just developing," Edwardson said.

"When we look at these native plants we can know what it was like hundreds of years ago when prairies dominated the Minnesota landscape."

For more information, call Assistant Maintenance Superintendent Paul Edwardson at 952-563-8762.

SPRING CLEANING TIME PARTICIPATE IN CITYWIDE GARAGE SALES

You have three great options for getting rid of unwanted items at home: Set out objects for the Curbside Cleanup, *see article left*; donate quality goods to a local charity; or sell your unwanted treasures at the Citywide Garage Sales.

The Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation, with support from Human Services, will hold the 2011 Bloomington Citywide Garage Sales, **Thursday, May 19 - Saturday, May 21.**

To advertise your garage sale on the official 2011 list, you will need to pay \$22, or \$27 for a listing and a yard sign.

Citywide Garage Sales lists are available for \$3 each through the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation. Lists will also be available on the City's website shortly before May 19. For more information, call the Bloomington Optimist Youth Foundation at 952-831-3798.





MEET A VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER GETTING TO KNOW KRIS KAISER

From fire suppression to fire investigation, Kris Kaiser does it all. A Bloomington volunteer firefighter since 1999, captain of Fire Station 3, and a Fire Inspector since 2006, Kaiser has enjoyed working in all areas of Bloomington fire service. In fact, Kaiser moved to Bloomington from Apple Valley for the sole purpose of joining the Bloomington Fire Department.



Q Why do you wear a white helmet? *I'm part of the Chief 7 program that takes fire captains from different stations and puts us in a chief squad. This gives us the opportunity to respond to incidents as chiefs would and gain experience in making command decisions.*

Q How do you stay safe on a call? *Training and education are the keys to safety. The Bloomington Fire Department trains all firefighters in a wide range of technical skills, so we know when we go out on a call, we're prepared.*

Q What aspect of your job as a Fire Inspector do you enjoy most? *I enjoy that every day is different. Some days I do hotel or school inspections, other days I'll be out conducting a fire investigation. Each day is a little different and that is what I really enjoy.*

Q What is the biggest challenge you face in balancing work and personal life? *The biggest challenge I face is time. I'm fortunate that my wife is very understanding when it comes to interrupted dinners and missed family functions.*

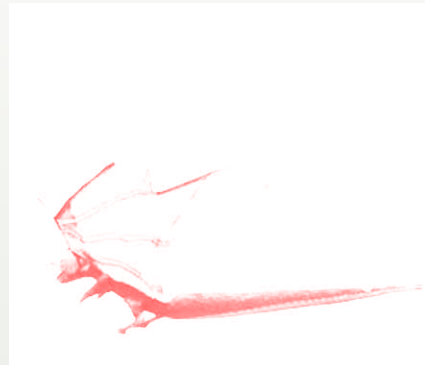
Q Is there anything you do that isn't related to fire or fire safety? *I go to school. I also try to spend time outdoors. I like to hunt and fish. I'd like to get back to duck hunting because I have a dog that seems to enjoy it as much as I do.*

BECOME A FIREFIGHTER

Visit the City's website for more information on making a difference by becoming a Bloomington volunteer firefighter.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE VOLUNTEERS.

IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S KITE DAY! MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THIS HIGH-FLYING EVENT



Kite flyers of all ages are invited to the annual Bloomington Sister City Kite Day celebration. Kite Day is a free event that takes place **Saturday, May 7, 1-4 p.m.**, at Valley View Playfield, 90th Street and Portland Avenue.

This fun-filled event honors Children's Day in Japan and will feature live entertainment, food, kites of all sizes and colors, and more. Bring your own kite or pick up a free one at the event. Prizes will be awarded.

For more information, call Bloomington Sister City at 952-563-8713 or visit www.bloomington-izumi.org.

MOVIES AND MORE FOR TEENS



BLOOMINGTON UNITED FOR YOUTH COFFEEHOUSE

Bloomington United for Youth (BUY) is collaborating with Human Services to bring its teen program to Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue.

Bloomington high school students in grades 9 - 12 would be provided with their own space most nights and weekends to be used as a coffee house, movie venue and a gathering spot for games and activities. Teens would be supervised by adults who have been trained through BUY.

The coffee house is scheduled to be open late spring. For more information, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: BUY.

BLOOMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH FILM SOCIETY

Are you a high school student who loves to watch and talk about movies? Then the Bloomington High School Youth Film Society is for you.

The film society meets **every Friday from 3 - 5:30 p.m.**, at the Creekside library to watch and critique a variety of films from dramas to comedies. The group plans to coordinate their activities with the BUY teen program.

To join one or both groups, contact Human Services at 952-563-4944 V/TTY or humanservices@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

GRAB YOUR APRONS AND MIXING BOWLS CELEBRITY BAKER VISITS BLOOMINGTON

Master of Blue Ribbon Baking Marjorie Johnson will be sharing her story and recipes at a special lunch event, **Monday, May 23, 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.**, at Bloomington Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Johnson, who has appeared on the *Tonight Show* with Jay Leno, has received more than 1,000 blue ribbons for her baking in the Minnesota State Fair and national baking contests. Johnson's book, "The Road to Blue Ribbon Baking with Marjorie," will be available for purchase and autograph.

Tickets are \$6 for guests under 60 and \$3 for pre-approved NAPIS applicants. For reservations, contact Human Services at 952-563-4948 or reservations@ci.bloomington.mn.us.



PATSY MINK: AHEAD OF THE MAJORITY OPENING DOORS FOR WOMEN



Join the Bloomington Human Rights Commission and Normandale Community College for a special viewing of the film *Patsy Mink: Ahead of the Majority*.

This documentary film chronicles the life of Mink from her beginnings on a Maui sugar plantation to becoming the first Asian-American woman in the United States Congress.

A special panel discussion will take place following the film. This free event will take place at Normandale Community College, 9700 France Avenue South. Dinner will be provided.

For reservations, contact Human Services at 952-563-4948 or reservations@ci.bloomington.mn.us.

TOGETHER WE STAND UNITED AGAINST UNDERAGE DRINKING

Tri-City Partners (TCP) Coalition for Healthy Youth and Communities is a group of Bloomington, Edina and Richfield community members who work to promote health and build assets for youth in their communities.



In partnership with the TCP Coalition, Bloomington Police Chief Jeffrey Potts will be sending an open letter to the community, encouraging parents and community members to take the lead on preventing underage drinking.

For more information or to read the letter, visit the City's website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TOGETHER WE STAND.

BOOST YOUR BRAIN HEALTH

DAKIM BRAIN FITNESS SYSTEM

Just 20 minutes per day of fun and engaging brain exercises can help improve your memory, focus and concentration while fighting the threat of cognitive decline.

Human Services invites you to try the Dakim Brain Fitness System at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

RECYCLE AND REUSE

DROP OFF OLD CELL PHONES AT CREEKSIDE



Do you have a cell phone that you no longer use? Human Services can help you put it to good use. If you have a cell phone and charger less than five years old, drop it off at Creekside Community Center, 9801 Penn Avenue South.

Human Services, in partnership with Qwest Pioneers, will take your old cell phone and refurbish it to call 911. The phones will then be donated to Bloomington residents, age 55 and older, or individuals with medical conditions who do not have phones.

For more information, call Human Services at 952-563-4944 V/TTY.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CELL PHONES.

Contact Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8877 for more information on these events.

ADULT ATHLETICS

BORN AGAIN JOCKS ENJOY SENIOR SOFTBALL



The Born Again Jocks welcomes residents, 55 years and older, of all skill levels and abilities, to join the team. Games are Tuesdays and Thursdays, starting Tuesday, May 3, 8:45 a.m., at Valley View Playfield, 9000 Portland Avenue South. Come anytime.

For more information, call Lyman Demaray at 952-888-6130.

SUMMER SAND VOLLEYBALL LEAGUES GET YOUR V-GAME ON

Parks and Recreation is now accepting registrations for Adult Summer Sand Volleyball. Form a team with your friends or co-workers as leagues are offered in both Co-Rec and Women’s Divisions. Matches are scheduled at Dred Scott Playfield, beginning Wednesday, June 1.

When: June 1 - August 11, evenings.
Where: Dred Scott Playfield, 10820 Bloomington Ferry Road.
Cost: \$255/team + tax.
Deadline: Friday, May 13.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: VOLLEYBALL.

ADAPTIVE SOFTBALL COMPETITIVE AND RECREATIONAL LEAGUES



Who: Adults, 19 and older.
When: Sundays, June 19 - August 14, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. (No program on July 3.)
Where: Tarnhill Park, 9650 Little Road.
Cost: \$55 includes team shirt and photo.

WEBSITE KEYWORD: ADAPTIVE.

DISCOVER, LEARN AND PLAY!



SAVE THESE DATES PLAN YOUR SUMMER ADVENTURES NOW

Visit the City’s website to view a complete list of summer opportunities.

SATURDAY, JUNE 11
Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach open.

MONDAY, JUNE 20
Summer Spectrum classes, Summer Adventure Playgrounds, Adventure Trips, Junior Team Tennis and Arts in the Parks begin.

MONDAY, JULY 18
Camp Kota and Kota Kids begin.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER ACTIVITIES.



COOL OFF AT THE POOL BLOOMINGTON FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER IS THE PLACE TO BE

301 East 90th Street

Bloomington Family Aquatic Center features a zero-depth entry pool, interactive play areas, water slide, diving boards, bathhouse and concession stand.



When: June 11 - August 21 and weekends through Labor Day.
Weekdays: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Weekends: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Holidays: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Daily passes	Age	Daily admission	After 5 p.m.
	Age 1 and under	Free	Free
	2 - 5 years	\$7	\$6
	6 - 54 years	\$9	\$7
	55+ years	\$7	\$6

Season passes	Age	Resident	Non-resident
Child	2 - 10 years	\$15.75	\$39
Young adult	11 - 15 years	\$26.75	\$50.25
Adult	16 - 54 years	\$49	\$73
Senior	55+ years	\$15.75	\$39

Season passes are available for purchase now through June 8 at the Parks and Recreation counter in Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road. You may also purchase passes at the Aquatic Center, June 8 - 10, 4 - 7 p.m., or during regular business hours beginning June 11.

A parent or guardian must purchase passes for children under 18 years of age. A driver’s license or state ID is required to verify residency. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: AQUATIC CENTER.

BUSH LAKE BEACH THE PERFECT COMBINATION OF SAND AND SUN

9140 East Bush Lake Road

Enjoy a picnic lunch, catch up on your reading or take the kids for a swim. Whatever you decide to do, don’t forget to stop, relax and take in the beauty of Bush Lake Beach this summer.

A daily pass or seasonal parking permit is required for entrance to East Bush Lake Park.

When: June 11 - August 21.
Time: 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., daily; lifeguards on duty beginning at 11 a.m.
Season parking permits for Bush Lake Beach are now available for purchase. Cost is \$30 for the season (June through August) or \$6 daily.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: BUSH LAKE BEACH.



GET YOUR FEET WET WITH SWIMMING LESSONS

Don’t forget that swimming lessons are offered at the Bloomington Family Aquatic Center and Bush Lake Beach. For more information and registration forms, call Parks and Recreation.

SUMMER SPECTRUM SO MANY FUN ACTIVITIES TO CHOOSE FROM



Beginning Monday, June 20, and spanning eight weeks, Summer Spectrum classes focus on fun, learning activities for youth Pre-K through 9th grade.

Classes and camps are held at Oak Grove Elementary, 1300 West 104th Street. Limited bus transportation is available.

The catalog, mailed to the parents of school-age children in Bloomington public schools, is also on the City’s website.

Summer Spectrum is a collaboration among Bloomington Public Schools’ Community Education, Bloomington’s Parks and Recreation Division, and the Bloomington Theatre and Art Center.

For more information or to register for programs, visit the City’s website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER SPECTRUM.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED BLOOMINGTON ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION



All youth organizations experience a turnover in volunteers and the Bloomington Athletic Association (BAA) is no exception. As kids grow out of BAA sports or move on to other activities, BAA’s core volunteers of parents move on as well. If you have a passion for kids’ sports, consider volunteering for BAA.

In 2010, the BAA brought in new executive board members, including David Dickson, Wayne Haeg, Richard Newman, and Dennis Steele. Taking over as BAA city directors are Dan Olson (girls traveling softball), Bob Hazel (volleyball) and Joe Waldoch (soccer).

The BAA is one of the largest youth sports organizations in the country. For more information on how you can get involved, visit www.baaonline.org.



PLAN THE PERFECT GATHERING
RENT A PICNIC SHELTER



Picnic shelters are available to rent through mid-October for picnics, receptions, reunions, meetings and more. Shelters have electricity, grills, restrooms and drinking fountains. City parks offer playground equipment, volleyball and horseshoe courts, trails, and softball fields. For more information on reserving a shelter or to obtain a registration form, visit our website.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PICNIC SHELTER RENTAL.

SOAK UP THE SUN

PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM
FILLING IN THE GAPS

Enjoy a variety of games, sports, and arts and crafts at Westwood Park, 3490 West 109th Street, or Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South.

This free program is supported and funded by Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, the City of Bloomington and Bloomington School District. A free lunch is provided.

Dates: July 5 - 8, August 22 - 26 and August 29 - September 2.

Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Ages: 6 - 12 years old.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: PLAYGROUND PARTNERSHIP.



SUMMER ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS
FOR SERIOUS PLAY TIME

Join your friends for an awesome summer of fun at your neighborhood playground. Activities include sports, arts and crafts, games and special events. Participants will be supervised by adult instructors.

Date: Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, June 20 - August 19.
Time: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Locations: Brye, Kelly, Poplar Bridge, Running, Smith, Sunrise and Westwood parks.
Ages: 6 - 12 years old.
Cost: \$55 on or before May 31; \$60 on or after June 1.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: SUMMER ADVENTURE.



HAVE A KAYAK OR CANOE?
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BUSH LAKE CANOE RACKS

Attention, canoe and kayak owners! There is no better location than Bush Lake to paddle and store your canoe. The quiet, serene setting leads you to believe you are no longer in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

A total of 50 racks are available for rent **May 1 - October 31**, for a fee of \$65.60 + tax. The racks are located in West Bush Lake Park, 9401 West Bush Lake Road, near the launch area.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: CANOE RACKS.

THE AWARD GOES TO...
CITY RECOGNIZES HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY FOR FOOD SAFETY

The 15th Annual Diamond Service Awards took place in March at the Sheraton Hotel.

WINNERS FOR FOOD SAFETY



The award-winning staff of the Sheraton Bloomington Hotel.

Large Restaurant
TGI Friday's (Mall of America)

Full Service Hotel
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel,
Minneapolis South

Limited Service
Hampton Inn and Suites,
Minneapolis-St. Paul Airport (Mall of America)

Fast Food/Pizza/Cafeteria
Culver's and Taco Bell (Lyndale Avenue)

Retail Grocery
Walmart

Grand Winner Overall Safety Award
Sheraton Bloomington Hotel,
Minneapolis South

Receiving a Food Safety Award is both a source of pride and a symbol of dedication to food safety. Restaurants are nominated by the City's Environmental Health inspectors and their industry peers. The Food Safety Awards are part of the Diamond Service Awards program sponsored by the Bloomington Convention and Visitors Bureau.

For more information, call Environmental Health Manager Lynn Moore at 952-563-8970.

CENTER FOR THE ARTS

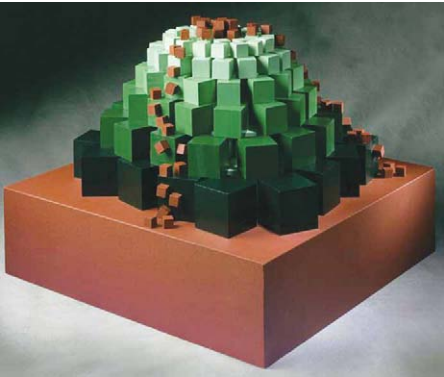
Located in Bloomington Civic Plaza at the corner of West 98th Street and Old Shakopee Road, the Center for the Arts is a first-class facility housing six arts organizations. For facility information, call 952-563-8889. For exhibit information and events, visit www.bloomingtonartcenter.com and click on Exhibitions, or call 952-563-8567.

GALLERY HOURS

Hours: M - F 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Sa 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Su 1 - 10 p.m.

For all theater tickets,
call the Box Office at 952-563-8575.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS:
CENTER FOR THE ARTS.



Santarini by Jeffrey Alan.

INEZ GREENBERG GALLERY



What's Up by Lucia Hwang.

WHAT'S UP?

What's Up? will feature works by artist Lucia Hwang, **April 15 - May 20**. Artist's reception, April 15, 6 - 8 p.m.

BITS AND PIECES

Bits and Pieces will feature the works of artists Jeffrey Alan and Josephine Geiger, **May 26 - July 8**.

ATRIUM GALLERY

BLOOMINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ART SHOW

This annual exhibition will feature the works of 150 young Bloomington artists, **May 3 - 30**. Artists' reception is May 10, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

BLACK BOX THEATER

TWELVE ANGRY MEN

Bloomington Civic Theatre presents *Twelve Angry Men*, **May 20 - June 12**. Tickets are \$18. For more information, visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.



ANGELICA CANTANTI YOUTH CHOIRS
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs will present their 30th anniversary spring concert, **Sunday, May 1, 2 p.m.**, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church, 9201 Normandale Boulevard. This is a free event. For more information, visit www.angelicacantanti.org.

CONTINENTAL BALLET COMPANY
SUMMER CLASSES OFFERED

The Continental Ballet Company is offering a "Princess Camp" for girls, **July 6 - 8**, and **August 22 - 25, 10 a.m. - noon**.

A ballet camp is also being offered to students, ages 8 - 18, **July 11 - August 3**. For more information, call 952-563-8562.

SCHNEIDER THEATER

MOZART'S REQUIEM

The Bloomington Chorale presents the hauntingly beautiful Mozart's *Requiem and Love Through the Ages*, **Saturday, April 9, 7:30 p.m.**, and **Sunday, April 10, 4 p.m.** Tickets are \$14 adults; \$10 students/seniors.

CONCERTO COMPETITION WINNER PERFORMS WITH MEDALIST BAND

Hopkins High School student Timothy Morris, winner of the second annual Earl C. Benson Concerto Competition, will perform with the Medalist Concert Band, **Sunday, April 17, 4 p.m.**

The Earl C. Benson award is named after the Bloomington music educator and original conductor of the Medalist Concert Band.

KISS ME, KATE

Bloomington Civic Theatre presents *Kiss Me, Kate*, directed by John Command, **April 29 - May 29**. Tickets are \$28. For more information, visit www.bloomingtoncivictheatre.org.



MANAGING OUR TURF ATHLETIC FIELD PREP

Maintaining the turf of 90 softball fields, 26 soccer and lacrosse fields and five football fields is no small task for the City’s Parks Maintenance Division.

According to Park Maintenance Supervisor Ed O’Brien, putting the turf “to bed” healthy in the fall is the key to creating healthy turf in the spring.

“We aerate, over-seed and fertilize to ensure the healthiest turf possible before winter arrives,” O’Brien said.

Outdoor temperatures must be consistently above 50 degrees before seeds can germinate. Even if temps remain above 50 degrees, the ground must be extremely firm before heavy equipment can run on it, which usually requires spreading seeds by hand. Once seeds have germinated, the process of watering, aerating and fertilizing begins again.

“We spend weeks prepping the turf, which is why it is so important for people to respect the signage,” O’Brien said. “We have a saying that goes, ‘you grow grass by the inch, but kill it by the foot.’”

What is the cost to homeowners? The owner of a median valued home of \$212,800 pays only \$1.14 a month for a service that keeps athletic fields maintained year round.

DON’T GET BURNED MAKE FIRE SAFETY A PRIORITY

Spring has arrived, but before you enjoy that outdoor fire or barbecue, keep in mind the following fire safety tips:

- As a courtesy to your neighbors, tell them ahead of time if you are going to have a recreational fire.
- Take care when using charcoal, propane and natural gas grills. Check propane grill hoses for cracks, leaks and a tight connection to the tank. Never use gasoline or other flammable liquids to start charcoal.
- Open flame and barbecues on balconies or patios are restricted for two-family dwellings, townhomes and multiple-family dwellings.
- Candles or tiki torches should never be placed close to combustible materials or left unattended.

For more information, contact the Fire Prevention Division at 952-563-8933 or Bloomington Fire Marshal Gene Dugal at 952-563-8967.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: FIRE PREVENTION HANDOUTS.

PREPARING FOR SPRING



MAKE YOUR GARDEN WORK FOR YOU RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP TEACHES DESIGN, INSTALLATION



The City of Bloomington and Lower Minnesota Watershed District are hosting a rain garden workshop for Bloomington residents on **Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.** The workshop takes place in the rehearsal hall at Civic Plaza, 1800 West Old Shakopee Road.

Workshop participants will receive instruction from professional landscape designers and Hennepin County Master Gardeners who will discuss:

- Planning the location of your garden.
- Limiting fertilizers and pesticides.
- Incorporating native plants into your garden.
- Capturing rain water and redirecting downspouts.

This workshop is facilitated by Metro Blooms, a nonprofit gardening organization. For more information or to register for the workshop, call 651-699-2426 or visit www.metroblooms.org.

PROTECTING THE MINNESOTA RIVER PILOT PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS NEEDED

Landowners living in the area bounded by 102nd Street to the north, I-35W to the west and the Minnesota River to the south and east are eligible to participate in a pilot program to further improve the water quality of the Minnesota River.

In addition to rain gardens, participants will receive free design and installation of shade trees, pervious pavement, or native and perennial plants to replace turf grass.

For more information, visit www.metroblooms.org.

GET OUT AND GROW! GARDEN PLOTS AVAILABLE

Do you love to garden, but don’t have the space for your own? Garden plots are available for public use at Smith Park, 8155 Park Avenue South, and Harrison Park, 1701 West 100th Street. Community garden plots are 10 by 15 feet and are available April 15 - October 23, for \$33 per plot.

For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 952-563-8882.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: GARDEN PLOTS.



TIME TO PLANT SOME TREES ANNUAL SALE ADDS HUNDREDS OF TREES TO LANDSCAPE

Each year, the City plants trees in parks and other public areas to ensure that Bloomington’s urban forest continues to be one of the community’s treasures. In fact, the City has planted more than 1,000 trees over the last few years. To increase the number of trees on private properties, Park Maintenance holds a public tree sale. Based on last year’s sales, 280 trees will be available for purchase this spring.

TREE ORDER FORM

Bloomington residents only. All trees are bare root, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-a-half inches in diameter and cost \$50 each. *Trees are not guaranteed.*

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

Fill in number of each tree type desired. Maximum 5 trees total per household, \$50 each. Check must accompany order.

____ Autumn Blaze red maple

____ Green Mountain sugar maple

____ Hackberry

____ Imperial honeylocust

____ Northwood red maple

____ Prairie Fire crab apple

____ River birch

____ Snowdrift crab apple

Total trees X \$50 ea. = \$ Total cost

Pick up trees at 1800 West Old Shakopee Road on **Saturday, May 7, 9 - 11 a.m.**

Send check and form to City of Bloomington, Park Maintenance,
1800 West Old Shakopee Road, Bloomington MN 55431-3027.



OPPORTUNITIES TO PRACTICE YOUR SWING HYLAND GREENS PRACTICE DRIVING RANGE EXPANDING

Hyland Greens Driving Range may be moving from its current location on Normandale Boulevard to the middle of the Hyland Greens property.

If approved by the City Council, the move would allow for an expansion of the driving range from 12 to 36 hitting stations, which means even more opportunities to practice your swing before heading out to the course. The new range would sit on an all-grass practice area. Construction could begin in September, with the new practice area opening in spring 2012.

An open house about the practice range relocation will be held **Saturday, April 23, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**, at the Hyland Greens Clubhouse. For more information, contact Ali Hassan at 952-831-9372.



Green Mountain Sugar Maple © 2008 Halka Nurseries.

The City’s annual tree sale will provide a variety of tree species again this year, including: Autumn Blaze red maple, Green Mountain sugar maple, Hackberry, Imperial honeylocust, Northwood red maple, Prairie Fire crab apple, River birch, and Snowdrift crab apple.

Orders will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Trees are not guaranteed. Visit our website for more information and a printable order form.

WEBSITE KEYWORDS: TREE SALE.